

## Short Communication

### Nomenclatural notes on *Acacia* Mill. (Leguminosae – Mimosaceae), consequential to the conservation of its name

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At the XVII International Botanical Congress in Vienna in 2005 the name *Acacia* Mill. was conserved with *A. penninervis* Sieber ex DC. as type. (see McNeill *et al.* 2005). If the wide circumscription of *Acacia* is accepted in the sense of Bentham (1864, 1874) and most other subsequent authors (for example: Ross 1979; Neilsen 1992; Orchard & Wilson 2001), the conservation of its name will have little effect. One consequence, however, is that the names, though not the circumscriptions, of two of the three currently accepted subgenera will change. *Acacia* subgenus *Phyllodineae* (**Type:** *A. penninervis* Sieber ex DC.) becomes *Acacia* subgenus *Acacia* and the previous *Acacia* subgenus *Acacia* (**Type:** *A. nilotica* (L.) Del.) appears to have no name. The deficiency could be corrected in a few lines, but it would be premature to do so here. The conservation, which was approved by fewer than half the votes at the Nomenclature Session at Vienna (McNeill *op.cit.*) has not been well received by some parts of the botanical community; see, for example, Moll (2005). The imbroglio is not likely to be settled before the XVIII International Botanical Congress in 2011 when the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN) as amended at the Vienna Congress (including *nomina conservanda*) will have to be accepted. Until then it would be prudent to preserve the status quo as far as possible. The synopsis of the genus *Racosperma* (Pedley 2003) should therefore be disregarded. However, the transfer of names of three taxa from *Racosperma* is necessary, and an explanatory note on another species is desirable. These matters are addressed below.

***Acacia calligera* (Pedley) Pedley, *comb. nov.***

*Racosperma calligerum* Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 6 (3): 455 (2003).

***Acacia ligulata* var. *minor* (F.Muell.) Pedley, *comb. nov.***

*Acacia salicina* var. *minor* F.Muell., *J. Proc. Linn. Soc., Bot.* 3: 126 (1859); *Racosperma ligulatum* var. *minus* (F.Muell.) Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 3: 473 (2003).

***Acacia serpentinicola* (Maslin) Pedley, *comb. et stat. nov.***

*Acacia juncifolia* subsp. *serpentinicola* Maslin, *Nuytsia* 6: 47 (1994); *Racosperma serpentinicola* (Maslin) Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 6 (3): 486 (2003).

***Acacia eglandulosa* DC., *Prodr.* 2: 450 (1825).**

*Acacia cyclops* A.Cunn. ex G.Don, *Gen. Hist.* 2: 404 (1832).

*Acacia mirbelii* Dehnh., *Rivista Napol.* 1: 168 (1839).

Cowan & Maslin (1999) considered it possible that *A. eglandulosa* and *A. cyclops* were conspecific. They left the resolution of the species they treated as *A. cyclops* to a future monographer. However, they had no doubt about the status of *A. mirbelii* Dehnh. Though they did not see type material, they decided that the name *A. mirbelii* 'surely refers to this species' that is *A. cyclops*. They considered the species to be 'well known, easily recognised, [and] widespread.' Clearly they did not want a name change. No monographer is likely to appear and such a one would hardly have the expertise of the two authors.

The species is easily recognised and without doubt *A. cyclops* and *A. eglandulosa* are the same species. It seems that the authors chose to disregard the priority provisions of the Code to preserve a name in common use. The whole issue of Names of Current Use (NCUs) was widely debated at and after the XV Botanical Conference at Tokyo. It became the subject of two proposals to amend the Code at the XVI Congress at Saint Louis (Greuter 1998) where it was rejected (Greuter *et al.* 2000: 114).

If the species has some economic or other importance, a proposal to conserve the name *A. cyclops* should be prepared.

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